

Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

June 2015

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Family Voices

*Keeping family at the center of
children's health care*

Advocacy, information, and
support found with Family
Voices.

Learn about the
**One in Five Public
Awareness Campaign!**



Did you know?



Accessing Child Care & Out-of-School Time Activities:

Breaking Down Barriers

Since the release of the Council's [2012 Barriers to Quality Child Care and Out of School Time Activities Report](#), we have continued to work with the Maryland State Department of Education, families, providers, and other stakeholders to build the capacity of child care and out of school time programs to support children with developmental disabilities and their families. Awareness, training and technical assistance is critical to improve childcare providers' understanding of and approaches to working with children with developmental disabilities and their families.

Over the past several months, staff from the Council, [Maryland Family Network \(MFN\)](#) and [PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs](#) conducted three train-the-trainer workshops about the newly developed training, Including all Children and the Americans with Disabilities Act, for almost 100 trainers. The training will be required for all licensed childcare providers beginning in 2016. Over the next year, those trainers will conduct the same training to over 14,000 childcare providers.

Learn more here about [the ADA and guidelines for licensed childcare providers on the MFN's website](#).

An additional training is also now available and while not mandatory, 68 providers have already taken advantage of the new online course, [Working with Children with](#)

64% of families have lost income due to the lack of child care options!

(More insightful statistics in the Council's 2012 Barriers to Quality Child Care and Out of School Time Activities Report)



Parent Training & Information Center

Looking for help with your child's IEP or other special education issues? Check out the [Maryland's Parent Training and Information Center \(PTI\)](#). All services are provided to parents and families at no cost!



We Need to Hear from YOU!

The MD DD Council needs to hear from people with DD, families, and those that support them. Your input will help guide our priorities for the next 5 years!

[Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey](#), and pass along to those in your network.

Thank You!

[Developmental Disabilities](#), available from Maryland Family Network with funding by the Council.



Community of Practice for Supporting Families...What's Up?

Last November we reported about a new "Community of Practice for Supporting Families" forming under the leadership of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), in collaboration with the DD Council and The Arc Maryland. A "community of practice" (CoP) is a learning environment for intensive exploration of issues and ideas. Modeled after a national initiative, this CoP focuses on supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan including addressing their needs for knowledge and skills, informal supports & networks, and formal supports & services. The focus goes well beyond DDA.

In May about 40 people gathered for the kick-off meeting of the CoP. The group included family members, people with disabilities, advocates and representatives from state and local programs ranging from early intervention to aging. Here is some of what we learned and discussed:

- 71% of people with developmental disabilities and their families in Maryland are not engaged in or known to the formal system of DDA supports.
- Everyone should think about what a good life means to them and what life experiences help point them in that direction.
- Policies and practices should support all the roles families play in a person's life, including caring about and caring for someone.
- Resources should be available to support families and their needs, as well as the person with a developmental disability.



Free Webinar!

June 25th
Innovations in
Supporting Families



LifeCourse Toolkit

"Families are the core unit in our society, serving as a source of support for all its members...Yet, the vital role of families is not fully recognized and supported in disability policy and practice."



Kinera Foundation Relief Fund

Do you need help covering the cost of therapeutic treatments, respite care, assistive technology, updated medical equipment, or other services? Apply for assistance from the Kinera Foundation's Relief Fund

This was just a beginning. Your ideas and involvement are welcomed! How can you learn more?

- Attend a session on this topic at [DDA's Conference on Quality, June 16-17](#)
- Check out [thought-provoking information](#) shared at the CoP kick-off meeting
- Follow DD Council announcements and [follow us on Facebook](#)
- Contact [Nancy Hatch at DDA](#) for more information

Check out the LifeCourse Toolkit & free Webinar: Innovations on Supporting Families in the sidebar of this issue.



Governor Signs Important Bills into Law

ABLE Task Force & Saylor Alliance Move Forward

Governor Hogan signed bills to move two important issues forward in Maryland, both of which the Council helped guide to passage. One ensures an [ABLE program](#) will be established in Maryland to help people save for disability-related expenses. [The Saylor Alliance](#) will ensure people with disabilities play a central role in training law enforcement and other sectors. Both the ABLE Task Force, which will develop the ABLE program, and the Saylor Alliance Steering Committee, which will guide the training initiative, will be housed at the [Maryland Department of Disabilities \(DOD\)](#). MDOD is working actively to establish the task force and steering committee so work can begin as soon as possible on these important initiatives. For more information, contact MDOD at mdod@maryland.gov or 410-767-3660.



The Saylor Alliance

WUSA 9 coverage: Gov.
Hogan Signs Ethan Saylor
[Bill](#)



The Sprout Film Festival!

Making the invisible, visible.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21
3:30 p.m. Monteabaro
Hall, The Horowitz
Center at Howard
Community College

With support from the MD DD
Council, a partnership with The Arc
of Howard County, The Columbia
Festival of the Arts and Howard
Community College

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A family attending the 1st Annual Lower Shore Advocacy & Transition
Conference

A Council Grant in Action!

Advocacy By the Bay

The Council offers grants for great ideas that further our mission and values of empowerment, opportunity, and inclusion. A grant recipient, Tilson & Diaz Solutions is working with Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico County transitioning youth (TY) and their families with an initiative named Advocacy By the Bay. The initiative promotes self-determination, self-confidence and teaching youth with disabilities the skills needed to advocate for themselves and set goals for their future, while also providing training and support to family members and educators.

To this end, on one of the first warm sunny days in April, approximately twenty students and their families made the choice to attend the first annual Lower Shore Transition & Advocacy Conference, a collaboration with [ArtStream](#), Tri-County Council members, Somerset County Pubic Schools and Tilson & Diaz. After listening to motivational speakers Chaz Kellem, Manager of Diversity Initiatives with the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Chris Mielo, Motivational Speaker & Film Maker, participants enjoyed a variety of workshops categorized into three themes: Transition to Life, Benefits of Working, and Take Charge of YOUR Life. Topics included SSI & SSDI, self-determination, preparing for employment, and a planning guide for transition. ArtStream conducted activities that asked students and family members to step out of comfort zones, practicing self-expression by acting out memorable scenes from popular movies. At the end of the conference participants were visibly pleased with what they learned and also with the opportunity to meet other families and students with shared life experience. [Advocacy By the Bay](#) is making a

difference to students and their families on the Lower Eastern Shore.

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